

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199514

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,PORG,SOPN,PINS

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT:  
NON-ALIGNED NEWS POOL AND CONTROL OF NEWS MEDIA

1. SUMMIT ACTIONS FOLLOWING UP NEW DELHI  
COMMUNICATIONS MINISTERS MEETING ON NON-ALIGNED  
NEWSPOOL AND CONTROL OF NEWS MEDIA ARE LIKELY TO  
PROVOKE STRONG REACTION IN US MEDIA, ESPECIALLY  
IN LIGHT OF LARGE NUMBER OF UN JOURNALISTS IN  
COLOMBO.

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2. SEPTELS REPEATING STATE 117800, STATE 117801

AND STATE 188615 PROVIDE BACKGROUND AND US POSITION ON  
GENERAL ISSUE. RESULTS OF DELHI MEETING OCCURRED  
IN CONTEXT OF: A)SOVIET-BACKED DRAFT UNESCO  
QUOTE DECLARATION ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES  
GOVERNING THE USE OF THE MASS MEDIA IN STRENGTHENING  
PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING---UNQUOTE;  
B) UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATION  
POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBEAN  
(STATE 177800) WHICH PASSED VENEZUELAN RESOLUTION  
CALLING FOR CONTROL OF WESTERN MEDIA TO ACHIEVE  
QUOTE BALANCED UNQUOTE NEWS ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

3. STATE 177801 CONTAINS BASIC US POSITION ON  
FREEDOM OF MEDIA. STATE 188615 PROVIDES BACKGROUND  
AND US STRATEGY FOR POSTPONING CONSIDERATION OF  
DECLARATION AT FORTHCOMING 19TH UNESCO GENERAL  
CONFERENCE.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE REPORTING ON DEVELOP-  
MENTS ON THIS ISSUE AS THEY ARISE AT COLOMBO. OF  
INTEREST WOULD BE COUNTRIES PROMINENT ON BOTH SIDES  
OF ISSUES, INTEREST IN, AND UNDERSTANDING OF,  
THIS ISSUE BY MAJORITY OF SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS, AND  
LIKELY POST-SUMMIT ACTIONS BY NON-ALIGNED IN UNGA,  
UNESCO AND ELSEWHERE. IF OCCASION ARISES TO  
EXPLAIN US POSITION, PARAS 2-6, STATE 177800, AND  
PARAS 3-6, STATE 177801 MAY BE USED.

ROBINSON

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NNN

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